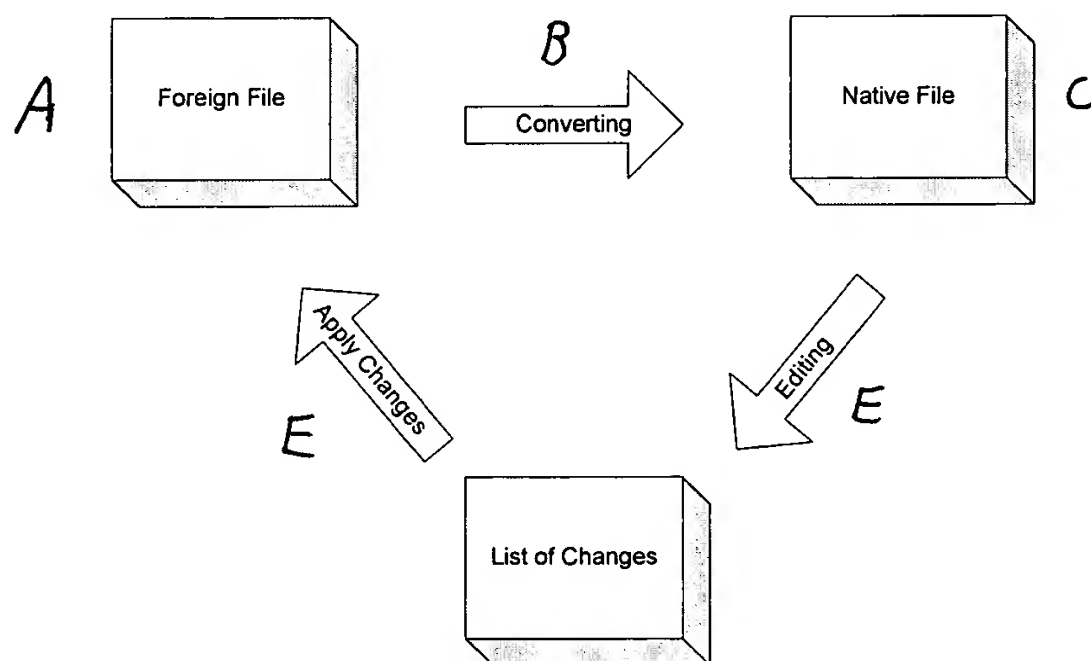


REMARKS

Claims 1-25 and 32-42 remain pending in this application. Each of the pending claims is believed to define an invention that is novel and unobvious over the cited references. Favorable reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 and 32-42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,820,135 to Dingman in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,303,379 to Khoyi. Dingman and Khoyi do not render the present invention obvious as they do not teach or suggest, among other things, altering data in a foreign format independently of a conversion process to reflect changes made during editing of data in a native format.

Referring to Figure 2 of the application, reproduced below, independent claim 11 recites that a first set of data in a foreign format (A) is converted (B) into a second set of data in a native format used by a native system (C). The second set of data (C) may be then edited (E) using the native system. The first set of data in the foreign format (A) is then altered to reflect the changes (E) made to the second set of data using the native system. The altering is performed independently of any conversion process as is recited in independent claim 1. As such, data that is not representable in the native format is not lost converting between the native and foreign formats and may be preserved, please see the present specification, for example, pages 7-8.



As is noted in the Office Action in section 5, Dingman does not disclose directly applying changes made to second data in second format to the first data in a first file. Dingman teaches a process similar to the prior art process described at page 2, line 7 – page 9, line 15 of the present specification. Khoyi does not supplement Dingman to teach or suggest the present invention. Instead, Khoyi teaches a conversion process similar to Dingman.

Khoyi describes a data exchange facility 812 that may include data conversion routines for converting data between an object's native data format and certain foreign data formats, column 50, lines 18-21. The process described in Khoyi takes data from a source user object 232-S and places the data in a destination object 232-D. The conversation process is a straightforward one in which a "get" operation gets data from the source object and a "put" operation places the data in the destination objection, see column 50, lines 49-67. There is no mention at all of editing either the source data or the destination data or applying changes made to the source data directly to the destination data or vice versa.

The cited portion of Khoyi describing changes made to a resource file being incorporated into the permanent copy of the file at column 81, lines 37-50 do not relate to directly altering a first set of data in a first format to reflect changes made to second set of data in a second format independent of any conversion process as is recited in the present claims. The cited portion of Khoyi simply describes how modifications made when working on a resource file are committed to the permanent copy of the resource file saved on disk. This is analogous to how changes to a document are made and saved by a word processing program. For example, a user may open a document, such as a letter, and edit the letter using a word processing program. Changes and edits made to the document are reflected in the user's copy of the document and shown on the user's screen. However, the changes are not reflected in the permanent copy of the letter saved on disk. It is only when the user commits these changes by saving the letter that the changes are incorporated to the permanent copy of the letter. This is what is described by the cited portion of Khoyi. A resource file is opened and may be edited by a user, column 81, lines 31-36. Using the RESfcommit command, the user may incorporate the changes they made into the permanent copy of the file or the changes can be discarded, leaving the saved copy of the file unchanged. There is simply no teaching or suggestion in Khoyi of directly applying changes made to second data in the second

format to first data in a first format. The resource file of Khoyi does not undergo any conversion process or format change.

The process described in Khoyi is similar to that described in Dingman and the prior art described in the specification. In fact, Khoyi admits it suffers from the problems that plague the prior art described in the specification and that the invention overcomes. Khoyi notes that the if the native and foreign formats are sufficiently different, there may be some data loss during the conversion process. The source object data must be fitted into the destination objection data as best as possible, see column 48, lines 28-31. The present invention overcomes the deficiencies of the prior art, including Dingman and Khoyi, and preserves data in the native format that cannot be represented in the foreign format.

Moreover, the cited references do not teach or suggest tracking changes made to the data during editing as is recited in dependent claim 2 and independent claims 11, 32. The transformation map for 20 of Dingman referenced in the Office Action is used to specify where data from the source should appear in the data target as well as the relationship between source data and target data. The transformation tells the transformation engine exactly what to write to the target data file, column 15, lines 49-53. Dingman does describe an index retrieval of records by key values. However, there is no mechanism described, including the key values, that are used to track changes that have been made to the data while editing the date using the native system as recited in the claims.

In view of the above, it is clear that cited references, do not fairly teach or suggest or suggest the claimed invention. Therefore, the withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that the prosecution of this application would be advanced by a personal interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee necessitated by this Amendment to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261.


In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Application No.: 09/820,891

Docket No.: 36488-169756

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Respectfully submitted,

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